

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NEA-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IO-11 OMB-01

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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R 151447Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBSSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1201

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR, RP

SUBJECT: SOVIET-PHILIPPINE PARTY RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 3347

1. SUMMARY. THE CURIOUS SPEECH BY THE UNNAMED PHILIPPINE COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL (REFTEL, PARA 7) WAS FOLLOWED AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS BY A SIMILAR UNSIGNED MESSAGE TO THE SOVIET PARTY MAKING THE SAME POINTS EVEN MORE EXPLICITLY. THE GENEROUS TREATMENT OF MARCOS SUGGESTS A SOVIET EFFORT TO AVOID CRITICISM BEFORE MARCOS' PLANNED VISIT TO MOSCOW THIS SPRING. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (MARCH 7) CARRIED A MOSCOW-DATELINED MESSAGE FROM THE "CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES" WHICH PAID APPROPRIATE PRAISE TO THE SOVIETS, THEN

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TURNED TO PRESIDENT MARCOS, CLAIMING THAT HE WAS

"FREEING" HIS COUNTRY FROM THE PATH SET BY "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" AND "IS REALIZING AN INDEPENDENT, MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT POLICY," INCLUDING ESTABLISHING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES. THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT HAD RESPONDED TO THE CAPITALIST ECONOMIC CRISIS BY SEEKING "STABLE TRADE AND ECONOMIC TIES" WITH "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES, SAID THE MESSAGE, WHICH ALSO PRAISED ITS DOMESTIC "ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORMS." AMONG THE LATTER WAS THE "LEGALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE CP." UNDER ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN SEPTEMBER, 1974, THE PARTY VOICED SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN OF THE REFORMS, EVEN THOUGH THE EMERGENCY SITUATION PREVENTED THEIR FULL REALIZATION. "THIS NEW STAGE," SAID THE MESSAGE, APPARENTLY REFERRING TO ITS NEW MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE GOVERNMENT, CAME ABOUT AFTER NEARLY 45 YEARS OF ARMED STRUGGLE AND WAS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE "NEW STAGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION" CAUSED BY THE INCREASED INFLUENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS FRIENDS.

3. THE MESSAGE CONTINUED BY FIRMLY ENDORSING A SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN ASIA AS A MEANS OF "LIQUIDATING IMPERIALIST MILITARY BASES." IT ALSO ROUTINELY DENOUNCED THE "MAOISTS," LUMPING THEM WITH "TROTSKYITES" AND "ZIONISTS" AS ACCOMPLICES OF IMPERIALISM IN OPPOSING THE USSR.

4. COMMENT. IN ITS FAVORABLE TREATMENT OF MARCOS THIS MESSAGE WENT EVEN FURTHER THAN THE SPEECH. THIS "PARTY" SEEMS TO BE SERVING AS A SOVIET MOUTHPIECE AND THUS MAY SIGNAL THAT MOSCOW DOES NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE COMMENTS CRITICAL OF MARCOS BEFORE HIS LONG-AWAITED VISIT MATERIALIZES THIS SPRING. STOESEL

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